

A LEAFSPOT ON ST. JOHNS-BREAD

Harry C. Burnett

Cercospora ceratoniae on St. Johns-Bread (*Ceratonia siliqua* L.) has been reported from Algeria, Italy, Cyprus, and Formosa. It was first found in Florida by District Inspector C. W. Hale in 1958. Since then, identical material has been received from Miami and Winter Haven. The first written report of this disease from Florida is presented here.

St. Johns-Bread, while not a common tree in Florida, seems to be increasing in popularity. It is interesting to note that in the Mediterranean area the pods are fed to livestock, and are eaten by people. These were the "husks" of Jesus' parable of the prodigal son.

SYMPTOMS

The symptoms, noted first on the under surface of the leaves, are tiny, light green sunken areas. As the disease progresses, the infection may be noted on both surfaces of the leaf. The individual spots are usually circular, but with age become somewhat angular (Fig. 1). Size of spots range from tiny specks up to 8 mm in diameter. In the process of enlarging, the spots turn chocolate brown, often with slightly raised margins. Often several spots coalesce to form large irregular areas.

CONTROL

No control measures have been worked out for this disease.



Fig. 1. Leaves of St. Johns-Bread, *Ceratonia siliqua* L. naturally infected by *Cercospora ceratoniae* Patouillard and Trabut.

References Used

- Chupp, C. 1953. A monograph of the fungus genus *Cercospora*. Published by the author. Ithaca, New York. 667 p.
- Moldenke, H. N. and A. L. Moldenke. 1952. *Plants of the Bible*. Ronald Press. New York. 327 p.